

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Presently Amended) ~~A grounding element (1) for making possible an electrical connection between a structural element and an electrical terminal, said grounding element (1) comprising:~~
~~A grounding assembly including a grounding element electrically interconnected with a grounded support member, said grounding assembly comprising:~~
~~a grounded support member (24) constructed of electrically conductive material and having an aperture therein configured for insertibly receiving at least a portion of a grounding element (1); and~~
~~a grounding element (1) having:~~
~~a first portion (2);~~
~~a second portion (3) provided with a thread (6);~~
~~a central section (4) connecting the first portion (2) to the second portion (3) and the central section (4) having a first contact surface (8) in a plane where the central section (4) is connected to the second portion (3), and; and the first portion (2) having a thread (5) and the central section (4) having a portion (4a) with at least one projecting ridge (7).~~
2. (Presently Amended) The grounding ~~element~~assembly as recited in claim + 11, wherein the ~~central section~~insert portion (4) further comprises a truncated cone (4a) having a tip end interconnected with the first portion (2).
3. (Presently Amended) The grounding ~~assembly~~element as recited in claim + 11, wherein the ~~central section~~insert portion (4) further comprises is formed together with a disk-shaped portion (4b), one side surface of which forms the first contact surface (8).
4. (Presently Amended) The grounding ~~assembly~~element as recited in claim 3, wherein an edge of ~~a~~the disk-shaped portion (4b) of the central section (4) has at least two parallel surfaces.

5. (Presently Amended) The grounding assembly element as recited in claim 4, wherein the disk-shaped portion (4b) is a mechanical element with an internally threaded hole, which is mounted on the grounding element (1).
6. (Presently Amended) The grounding element as recited in claim 1, further comprising a thread (6) on the second portion (3), the thread (6) being deformed non-uniform so that a nut advanced thereupon resists being vibrated loose therefrom.
7. (Presently Amended) The grounding element as recited in claim 1, wherein the first contact surface (8) is provided with at least one projection (10) extending therefrom.
8. (Presently Amended) ~~An elongate grounding element for affecting and facilitating an electrically grounded connection, the elongate grounding element comprising:~~
A grounding assembly including a grounding element electrically interconnected with a grounded support member, said grounding assembly comprising:
a grounded support member (24) constructed of electrically conductive material and having an aperture therein configured for insertibly receiving at least a portion of a grounding element (1);
a grounding element (1) having an elongate body having a longitudinal axis and at least an externally threaded portion, said threaded portion having an insertible portion configured for non-threaded engagement with ~~a~~the support member when said threaded portion is inserted through a provided aperture in the support member; and
a means for enhancing electrically conductive contact between the elongate body and the support member, said enhancement means comprising elongate ridges radially extending off of a central portion of the elongate body, said central portion being configured for non-twisting insertion into the provided aperture in the support member in a direction substantially parallel to the longitudinal axis of the elongate body, said elongate ridges forming an interference fit with the support member at a periphery of the provided aperture.

9. (Original) A method for providing an elongate grounding element and affecting and facilitating an electrically grounded connection between the elongate grounding element and a receiving support structuremember, the method comprising:

providing an elongate grounding element having an elongate body establishing a longitudinal axis thereof and having at least an externally threaded portion;

inserting a part of said threaded portion through a provided aperture in the-a support member and thereby establishing non-threaded engagement of the elongate grounding element with the support structure, wherein said support member is a frame member of a vehicle;

enhancing electrically conductive contact between the elongate body and the support member by causing elongate ridges that radially extend off of a central portion of the elongate body to non-twistingly press into the provided aperture in the support member in a direction substantially parallel to the longitudinal axis of the elongate body; and

forming an interference fit between the elongate ridges and the support member thereby affecting and facilitating an electrically grounded connection between the elongate grounding element and the support structure.

10. (New) A grounding assembly including a grounding element electrically interconnected with a grounded support member, said grounding assembly comprising:

a grounded support member (24) constructed of electrically conductive material and having an aperture therein configured for insertibly receiving an insert portion (4) of a grounding element (1); and

a grounding element (1) having an insert portion (4) with radially projecting ridges (7) received in said aperture, said radially projecting ridges (7) establishing an interference fit between said grounding element (1) and said support member (24) by gouging into the electrically conductive material of construction of the grounded support member (24) upon insertion of the insert portion (4) of the grounding element (1) into the aperture of the support member (24) and thereby displacing portions of said electrically conductive material around each radially projecting ridge and thereby assuring electrical grounding contact between the grounding element (1) and the grounded support member (24).

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11. (New) The grounding assembly as recited in one of claims 1, 8 or 10, wherein said grounded support member (24) is a frame member of a vehicle.
12. (New) The grounding assembly as recited in claim 10, wherein said insert portion has a truncated cone shape.